

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10-12 and 21 are amended, and claims 8 and 9 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation of allowable subject matter in claims 9-11. By this Amendment, allowable claim 9 and intervening claim 8 are canceled, and the subject matter of claims 8 and 9 is incorporated into claims 1 and 21. Therefore, claims 1 and 21 are allowable.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 7, 8 and 12-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,966,134 to Arias in view of "Painterly Rendering for Animation" by Barbra J. Meier (Meier) and in view of "View-Dependent Particles for Interactive Non-Photorealistic Rendering" by Cornish et al. (Cornish); and rejects claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Arias, Meier and Cornish, and further in view of "Computer Vision: by Shapiro et al. (Shapiro). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, claims 1 and 21 contain allowable subject matter of canceled claims 8 and 9. The rejection is therefore moot, and claims 1 and 21 are allowable.

Dependent claims 2-7 and 13-20 are allowable at least for their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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